

SPRING 2010

# LLTT Newsletter

## Mission Statement

The mission of Lassen Land and Trails Trust is to conserve significant natural areas and agricultural landscapes and to promote and enhance a public trail system throughout Lassen County.

### Staff

**Steve Kohlmann**

Executive Director

**Leah Larsen**

Land Manager

**Jessica Gibbs**

Project Specialist

**David Sowers**

Depot Manager

**Bill Faatz**

Volunteer LCCA Preserve Manager

### Board Officers

President—Phil Nemir

Vice President—Frank Hall

Secretary—Judy Oliver

Treasurer—Kenzie Ahrens

### Board of Directors

Jeff Fontana

Phil Good

Georgianne Hall

Jonelle Kanavel

Rod Latimer

Michael McCue

Liz Norton

### Board Advisors

Stan Bales, BLM

Carol Curry, CPA

## Letter from the Board President



After a long absence from the Board of Directors, I've been elected to be the Trust's President, and welcome the opportunity. In these harsher economic times, we're moving forward with a dynamic staff to complete new trail and conservation projects, while improving operations at the Historic Susanville Train Depot. While we're scrambling to find conservation dollars, we need your help more than ever!

Here's just a sampling of ten fun things you can do to get involved with LLTT:

1. Volunteer at the Rails to Trails Festival in October, and welcome the Bizz Johnson Trail Marathoners.
2. Join the Conservation, Trails or Depot Committees and help in generating new ideas and project priorities.
3. Participate in the Paiute Meadows Trail Run and Walk (May 22), and enjoy Susanville Ranch County Park.

4. Join in on a field trip to the Lassen Creek Conservation Area, and check out the new entrance and vegetation rehabilitation project.

5. Bicycle portions of the Modoc Line rail-trail in the springtime and experience the greening of the desert.

6. Ask your friends and family to become members of LLTT and share in helping develop trails, and protect land with high conservation values for your kids and grandkids.

7. Stop in at the Depot Farmer's Market, and check out the LLTT store and exhibits. Or visit the new Janesville Farmer's Market.

8. Check out the wildflowers on a field trip to the Rosenberg Conservation Easement.

9. Help clean up the Susan River.

10. Continue being a member, consider planned giving, and help make Lassen County a great place to live and work!

## New Website - [www.llttweb.org](http://www.llttweb.org)

Lassen Land and Trails Trust is growing and so is our ability to share groundbreaking news with the public. We have developed a new webpage including new information, links, and even a new web address. [WWW.LLTTWEB.ORG](http://WWW.LLTTWEB.ORG). It's jam-packed with fun and exciting information from your favorite non-profit group. Take the time to check it out, we think it will be worth your while.

Thank you to Jason Flaherty for all of your help on this project!!

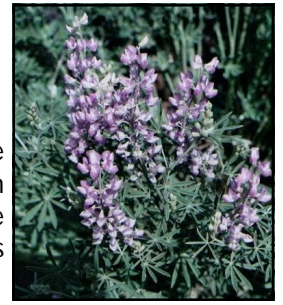
Also find us on Facebook! [Lassen Land and Trails Trust Group](https://www.facebook.com/LassenLandandTrailsTrustGroup)



# Spring Beauty on the Bizz

Jessica Gibbs, LLTT Project Specialist

As the gloomy clouds roll away and the layers of clothing start peeling off, we can begin to smell the change of season in the air. That smell comes from the breathtaking flora located right here in Lassen County, pushing its way into bloom. Springtime is the perfect time get out of the house and stretch those legs, particularly on the Bizz Johnson Trail. The Bizz is jam-packed with excitement buzzing all around this time of year, just right to captivate each of your senses.



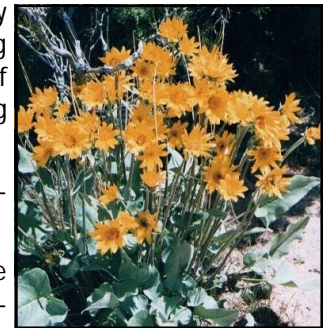
Lupine



Wild Iris

Your journey will begin as you catch the beautiful aroma of low sagebrush filling the air with a hint of sweetness from the flowers in bloom. Every so often you will catch the scent of a little spice on the breeze. That spice will seem all too familiar like the scent of the many varieties of wild onion located along the trail. In May, the outstanding gold color of the Balsam root contrasted by the delicate purple of lupines, phlox, and iris will stop you in your tracks.

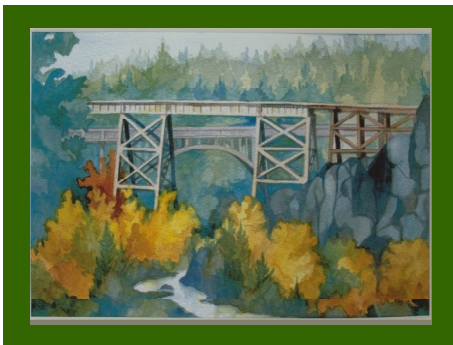
While on your stroll, keep your ears peeled for the hypnotic sounds of Aspen leaves blowing in the wind accented by the beautiful music of the resident and transient avian life through the Susan River Canyon. If you keep your eyes to the sky, you may be able to spot a few of the birds that are commonly sighted in the spring including Wood duck, Osprey, Scrub jay, or the Ruby-crowned kinglet. If you're lucky, you may even spot the bright blue Lazuli bunting bouncing through the treetops.



Balsam Root

Be sure to stop and dip your feet in the cold, clean Susan River water. It will be the perfect opportunity to get lost in thought and truly appreciate the bounty offered so close to home.

We hope you enjoy your journey of the senses along the Bizz this spring and be sure to stop at the Susanville Railroad Depot on your way to the trail; the staff at LLTT always appreciates good company and great stories.



## Sign up for E-news and Win!

Sign up to receive the LLTT Newsletter by email before April 30, 2010 for a chance to win a Sally Posner print "Bridging The Gap To Our Past and Future," pictured left. If you are new to LLTT, simply visit our website or contact our office with your information. If you are already a member or on our mailing list, provide us with your email address and we will enter your name in to win! Drawing will be held May 1, 2010. Good Luck!

## Semaphore Signal at the Historic Susanville Railroad Depot



Semaphore signals, www.carrtracks.com.

The semaphore is one of the earliest forms of fixed railway signal. These signals display instructions to train drivers by changing the angle of the arm. Semaphore signals were patented in the early 1840's by Joseph James Stevens, and soon became the most widely-used form of mechanical signal. Designs have altered over the years, and light signals have replaced semaphore signals in most countries.

About eight years ago Mr. Gary Putman donated a semaphore signal to the Trust, similar to the signals pictured. Members of the LLTT Board and Staff have actively been pursuing funding to restore and install this historic signal. If you have any information regarding historic railroad signal restoration, please contact David at LLTT.

Information regarding semaphore signals gathered from wikipedia.com



It's been a busy few weeks since I took the job as the Executive Director for LLTT! First, let me thank all of you who welcomed me so cordially to the LLTT family. It has been great to meet so many new friends. Second, let me extend an open invitation for all members to come by the office and say hi whenever you get a minute. I am always happy to meet those that make our organization "tick" through their generous support and their volunteer services. So, please stop by – the

coffee is on!

I'd like to share with you a few observations about where I believe the challenges and opportunities for LLTT lie. First, there is the ever-present budget crunch that reverberated through State and local governments and which has deeply affected the land conservation community. Virtually all land trusts are facing the same problem of scaled-back giving and grant opportunities. Second, it is crucial to examine our programs and activities to ascertain that we are responsive and flexible, while maintaining programs that serve our main mission "to conserve significant natural areas and agricultural landscapes and to promote and enhance a public trail system through Lassen County".

To that effect we have dramatically increased our grant seeking activities in areas that directly benefit our county and our communities. For example, we have partnered with Lassen County to seek funding for a comprehensive rail corridor conservation strat-

egy, which will help us in the development and management of a rails-to-trails network in Lassen County. Other grants will allow us to help with the development of a new farmer's market in Janesville, implementation of new landscaping around the Depot, Nature Camp for our youth, and various new and ongoing land conservation projects. We continue to improve access and natural integrity of our Lassen Creek Conservation Area. Spring is just around the corner, so the next time you're out watching birds or just walking the dog, stop by LCCA and see for yourself!

Even though these are dark and trying times for organizations that depend on donations and grants, we are confident that we will be competitive in securing ongoing funding for our various activities in and around Lassen County. The good news is that our membership is growing! So, if you are not yet a member, please consider joining us. And, if you already support our work, why not go up to the next level of support? We even have added a lifetime membership category! I'm sure you will find a membership level you are comfortable with.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said: "It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness". I am looking forward to meeting and personally thanking all those who have lit their candle in support of the Lassen Land and Trails Trust!

Sincerely,

Steve Kohlmann, Ph.D. CWB

## Whistlestop Lecture: Travels in Ecuador - April 22nd

Join us for an enlightening adventure as we experience Ecuador through a Whistlestop Lecture at the Susanville Railroad Depot. Bill and Charlotte Nebeker will take us through their 10-day journey to Ecuador where they volunteered with Orphanage Support Services Organization (OSSO), providing manpower to assist with the daily living needs of the orphans in Quito and Cuenca. They will enlighten the audience with their heroic expedition through a series of photographs and memoirs from orphanages in Ecuador. The evening will begin with a desert social at 6:30 and a presentation at 7:00. Hope to see you there!

## Paiute Meadow Trail Run and Walk - May 22nd

Enjoy spring time in Susanville Ranch Park by participating in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Paiute Meadows Trail Run and Walk. This is a great event for all family members. The one-mile kid's run and senior walk begins at 8:30 a.m. and is followed by the 2-mile and 4.7-mile events at 9:30 a.m. Awards and refreshments make this a really fun way to start your day. Last year we had a record number of participants, and we hope to break our record this year! If you don't feel up to walking or running, we can still use your volunteer help. Call the Depot (257-3252) or visit our website for a race flier as the date gets closer.



**Thank you!** to the following sponsors for your support of LLTT Events: Bank of America, Banner Lassen Medical Center, Best Western Susanville, Billington Ace Hardware, Dr. Greg Boomer, California Correctional Center and CCPOA, Chicago Title Company, Diamond Mountain Casino, High Desert State Prison, Johnson's Shoes, Lassen Addressing, Lassen County Federal Credit Union, Leslie's Jewelry, The Leve Family, Margie's Book Nook, Picture Perfect, Plumas Bank, Robbins House of Furniture, Rotary Club of Susanville, The Sierra Radio Network, Susanville Supermarket, Susanville Therapy and Athletic Rehabilitation, Dr. Dale Syverson, Tri-Counties Bank, The UPS Store, US Bank, Walmart, and Windjammer Cable.

# An Earth Day Commitment: Eating Local

Leah Larsen, LLTT Lands Manager

With the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day approaching, April 22, 2010, the internet is strewn with websites looking for commitments of earth-friendly acts. The earth has never meant more to me. When I look into my daughter's eyes and feel an overwhelming sense of love and protection, I want nothing more than to provide her with a healthy earth where she can live and raise her children. My commitment for this Earth Day is to feed my family food that is produced locally as much as possible. There are so many reasons why eating local is good for the Earth, and it is also good for the community and ourselves.

## Good for the Earth

- Most produce sold in the United States travels an average of 1500 miles before it reaches our tables. Eating local reduces fuel consumption and emissions
- Small gardens, farms, and ranches have less need for chemicals
- Local food eliminates manufacturing and packaging

## Good for the Community

- Our money stays in the local economy and supports local people
- We build relationships in the community
- We give farmers and ranchers an economic reason to stay open and undeveloped
- Small producers can grow more variety, providing the community with new and different food options

## Good for Ourselves

- It is fresh which means it tastes better and has a higher nutritional value
- By eating with the seasons, we eat foods that are at their peak taste, are most abundant, and the least expensive
- Fresh food is not processed
- We get to know the farmer or rancher and where it was produced

It is a perfect time to take on this challenge, as the spring and summer bounty will be arriving soon. We are lucky in the Honey Lake Valley to have so many local food producers that make their products available in our community. Check out the list below to see the variety of products available right here in Lassen County.

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**Five Dot Ranch** – Pasture Raised Grain Finished Beef – available locally by calling Michelle at 310-3218, [www.fivedotranch.com](http://www.fivedotranch.com)

**Hall Street Garden**, Charlene Ford and Willis Clark – Produce and Flowers – available at Farmer's Market

**Harold Weaver** – Produce – available at Farmer's Market

**Hulsman Ranch** – Grass Fed Beef and Lamb – available at Farmer's Market, Health Nut, Johnstonville Foods, and special orders by calling Hannah at 257-7262

**Martin's Produce and Greenhouse** – Produce including early season Tomatoes and Bedding Plants – available at Farmer's Market and at the Produce Stand on San Francisco Road

**Mountain Meadows Mead** – Meads and Fruit Wines made with honey – available at Susanville Supermarket and Idaho Grocery, [www.mountainmeadowsmead.com](http://www.mountainmeadowsmead.com)

**Schall's Bees** – Honey – available at Farmer's Market

**Trail's End Farm** – Chicken, Eggs and Produce – available at Farmer's Market, eggs available on Wingfield Road, and CSA Memberships available until April 17<sup>th</sup>, 253-2809, [www.trailsendfarm.org](http://www.trailsendfarm.org)

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I am not going to pretend that eating local is convenient. There is no one-stop shopping in a big super store, but I look forward to taking the time to visit Farmer's Market and talking with the gardeners, farmers, and ranchers that produce my food. We will make it a family activity this summer. And on those lazy days, when we feel like treating ourselves to a special meal, we can eat out at the **Sage Hen Restaurant**, where they buy meat from **Five Dot Ranch** and produce from **Trail's End Farm**. I look forward to this challenge and to the great pleasure of eating delicious food!

**We hope that you will join Lassen Land and Trails Trust in supporting our local producers and saying thank you for being good stewards of the soil, water and wildlife in Lassen County. Lassen Land and Trails Trust is proud to host the Farmer's Market where you can meet your local producer at the Susanville Railroad Depot starting the first weekend in June. We hope to see you there!**

## New Access at Lassen Creek Conservation Area

Everyone is invited to check out our new access and trail head for public use at the Lassen Creek Conservation Area (LCCA). Heading east on Richmond Road, about a quarter mile past Richmond School, look for a small sign on the right next to a gate. Beyond the gate you will see a winding drive, lined with a rail fence. The gravel road leads to a small parking area that is accessible for cars and vehicles with horse trailers.

This new access leads into the western portion of LCCA, that was saved from the fire in 2007 and continues to support a wetland and an old stand of bitterbrush and sage. This area is a favorite hang out for mule deer, jack rabbits, and numerous bird species. It is great wildlife viewing and as the weather warms up, there will be a nice showing of wildflowers this year.

We are continuing our restoration efforts on the eastern half of LCCA that burned in the Pine Fire. This area is currently closed and we ask that people keep away from the tall fencing. This fence is to keep deer out of the restoration area, and if the fence is damaged, deer could get trapped inside.

Lassen Creek Conservation Area is open for people on foot from January to October and for people on horseback and bicycles from April to October. It is closed to all activities in November and December. Motorized vehicles are prohibited. We strive to maintain a good relationship with our numerous neighbors surrounding LCCA. Please respect the surrounding private property and stay within the borders of LCCA.

We hope you enjoy your explorations at LCCA.



## WELCOME!! New Staff

### **Steve Kohlmann, Ph.D.**

#### **Executive Director**

Steve earned his Masters of Science in Forest Sciences and his Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Steve has over 25 years of experience working with landowners, government agencies, and non-profits in his field of expertise. Prior to coming to Lassen Land and Trails Trust, Steve was a private lands consultant, working in land conservation with ranchers and farmers across the country. He has worked with a variety of constituents on rangeland restoration, mitigation, and conservation easements. Steve has been certified by the Wildlife Society and the Ecological Society of America. He enjoys traveling, hunting, winter, and horseback riding.

### **Jessica Gibbs**

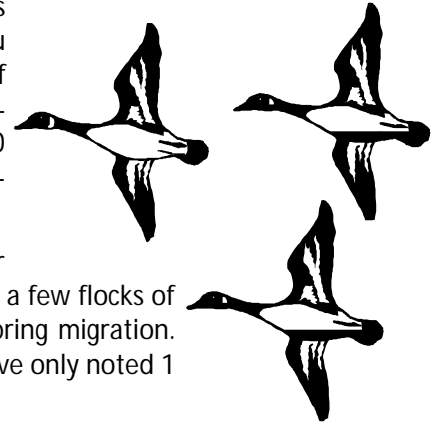
#### **Project Specialist**

Jessie earned her Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Science with an option in Land Stewardship from CSU, Chico in 2007. She has over 4 years of experience in Riparian habitat restoration and student outreach in the Sacramento Valley. She uses her qualifications in biology, education, and GIS in her position as the Project Specialist. Jessie loves working with the public and is responsible for managing membership and Lassen Land and Trails Trust education events.

# Spring Wildlife Tips

Frank Hall, retired Wildlife Biologist/LLTT Board Vice President

Now is a good time for bird feeder maintenance as birds transition from winter flocks into nesting time and their needs for high protein foods like insects are increasing. You will likely see a larger variety of birds at your feeders if you provide a larger variety of foods, especially seeds from very small to very large. To avoid disease issues, bird feeders should be scrubbed and cleaned with a strong disinfectant like Clorox every 60-90 days (year-round). This prevents bacteria build-up. There shouldn't be any hummingbirds around for a month or so but their feeders should be scrubbed as well.



The Canada goose pairs are now on their nesting territories and will be laying eggs over the next few weeks. First goslings should be visible in mid-April. I have been hearing a few flocks of the arctic nesting geese (snow/Ross/ and white fronted) going over our house on spring migration. These geese migrate both day and night on their north and southbound migrations. I've only noted 1 flock of sand hill cranes northbound so far.

Deer in the months of March and April end up in their largest groups during the whole year. They look a little ratty as their winter coats are getting a little worn out by now. They are also ravenous for any available protein and eat more grass in the spring than at any other time of year. With the warmer days and longer mornings and evenings, deer will be very visible over the next month or so. Migratory deer that winter in the Honey Lake Valley usually wait as long as they can in the spring to take advantage of plants further along at lower elevation. Their ancestors learned long ago that they can be trapped in late snow storms. The best tip for not hitting them while driving is to SLOW DOWN and pay attention.

The bucks are starting to grow their new antlers and you should see some a few inches long over the next few months. Some "town deer" retain their last year's antlers longer than those on wild foods because the hormonal balance is altered by more domestic food sources like bird food and garden plants. The does are about half way through their 2009-10 pregnancies by April 1 and fawn drop is mostly in the first half of June in Lassen County.

Those of you about to build (or already having) deer fences around the garden plants should make sure they are up at least seven feet. The top wire may have sagged over the winter from ice and snow. I have seen deer try to jump fences six feet tall. They can clear six foot fences but they can also hang up which is not pretty. Smaller shrubs and trees will be more attractive to deer as they put on new growth over the spring. Individual shrubs and trees can be covered with netting or screening. Sorry, I do not know of a sure-fire deer repellent formula.



## Board of Directors

The LLTT Board of Directors is comprised of 11 local community members who volunteer to keep this organization running in full force. Participating on the BOD is a commitment that requires a significant investment of time and energy; all in the name of supporting LLTT and its mission. The Staff of LLTT would like to extend a warm and very appreciative **Thank You** to all of the members on our board, and say Welcome to the new members. New members include:

**Jeff Fontana** - BLM

**Georgianne Hall** - Retired

**Kenzie Ahrens** - Retired Accountant

**Phil Good** - Retired Teacher

Welcome Back! **Phil Nemir** - Consulting Forester and Real Estate Appraiser

## New and Renewing Members January - March 2010


In honor of Helen and Marshall Leve - Ann Boone	Martin and Janet Balding Jim and Judy Barnett Bob Brower Prairie Burt Evan Chappuis Bruce and Pat Davie Ken and Irene Doyle Miriam Karen Fouch Ed and Carol Gann Meredith Goosejohan & Tim Kellison Linda Hansen Cindy Howe	Laura and Randy Jertberg Steve and Nicole Kanavel Rod and Diana Latimer Chuck Laviolette David McCain Bev Mendoza Mike and Julie Morgan Marikay Murphy Doug and Lynn Sheehy Gene and Colleen Smith David Sowers Janelle and Bill Wemple
In memory of M.E. (Bud Sr. Wells, Roadmaster 1944-1955) - Bud Wells Jr.		
In honor of "All my friends in Lassen County" - Robert and Mary McBroome		
In honor of Kendra Palmer - Sharon and Steve Gies		
Lynda and Chris Alberico		

## Business Members

In honor of Pauline & Ken Estes - Mountain Meadows Mead Winery Banner Lassen Medical Center Lassen Humane Society Plumas Bank	Billington Ace Hardware CCC and CPOA Diamond Mountain Casino High Desert State Prison	Lassen Addressing Rotary Club of Susanville The Sierra Radio Network U.S. Bank
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## Become a LLTT Member!


Team up with LLTT to conserve and enjoy Lassen County's lands and trails for years to come. By becoming a member of LLTT, you will receive quarterly LLTT updates, event invitations and discounts, and recognition in our upcoming newsletter.

 Student (<21)/Senior (>65) \$20


 Conservation Circle \$1000

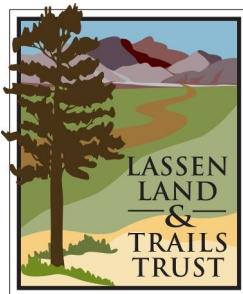
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

 Friend \$35

 Lifetime Member \$2000

**Thank you!**

 Family \$50



Name \_\_\_\_\_

 Supporter \$150

Address \_\_\_\_\_

 Partner \$250

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

 Land Steward \$500

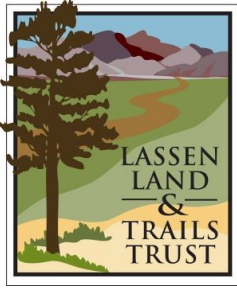
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check payable to "Lassen Land and Trails Trust" P.O. Box 1461 Susanville, Ca 96130. Payments using your credit or debit card can be made at [www.llttweb.org](http://www.llttweb.org).

**We appreciate your support!**

Lassen Land and Trails Trust is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

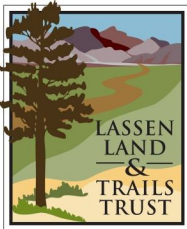


# 2010 Calendar of Events

- } April 22      **Whistlestop Lecture: Travels to Ecuador, 2009**  
Presented by Bill and Charlotte Nebeker  
Dessert Social 6:30 p.m., Presentation 7:00
- } May 22      **Paiute Meadow Trail Run & Walk**
- } June 5      **Bike the Bizz, National Trails Day**
- } June 5      **Farmer's Market**  
Every Saturday through September 25, 2010
- } July 19—30    **Nature Camp**
- } Sept. 18      **Great Sierra River Clean Up**
- } October 9     **Rails to Trails Festival/Bizz Johnson Trail Marathon**
- } October 10    **Hand Car Rides and Caboose Tours/Bizz Johnson Trail Marathon**
- } October 16    **"Bike the Bizz" Fall Colors Ride**



Visit [www.lttweb.org](http://www.lttweb.org) for up-to-date postings on all LLTT events.



P.O. Box 1461  
Susanville, Ca 96130

[www.lttweb.org](http://www.lttweb.org)

Place  
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